

Youth Ambassador Program Application

Partners of the Americas, through a program funded by the United States Department of State, is looking for 12 youth between the ages of 15 and 18, from public and subsidized schools, to promote mutual understanding between the people of Latin America and the United States, develop a sense of civic responsibility and commitment to community development among youth, build leadership capacity, and foster relationships among youth from different ethnic, religious and national groups.

Selected youth will travel to the US for three weeks. While in the US, you will attend school, participate in community service activities, attend workshops and plan a project to be implemented upon your return to Chile. As a Youth Ambassador, you will have the opportunity to:

- Gain greater understanding and appreciation of the similarities and differences between US and Chile, as well as other countries in Latin America.
- Gain a greater understanding and appreciation of US history, values, and beliefs.
- Explore both local and national issues and become involved with or contribute to those causes.
- Develop the skills needed to be a leader in your community.

Applicants must meet the following requirements in order to participate:

1. Good academic standing
2. Participation in community service or a volunteer organization
3. Demonstrated leadership through involvement in school, religious, or community organizations
4. Proficiency in English
5. Be between 15-18 years old
6. Have never traveled to the United States

Candidates meeting all requirements will be invited for an interview in English. The highest ranking candidates will be presented to the selection committee comprised of members of Partners of the Americas-Chile and the U.S. Embassy for a second interview. The selection committee will select final candidates and two alternates. Candidates will be judged on their dedication to service and community participation, their ability to adapt to new situations and environments, their maturity and responsibility, and their interaction with adults and peers.

Youth Ambassadors will be accompanied by adult mentors. Partners of the Americas will pay all expenses related to travel and participation in the program including fees for passports, domestic and international travel, food and expenses, health insurance, and lodging and transportation. Participants will travel on J-1 visas issued by the US Consulate.

To submit an application, please fill out the following questionnaire and submit it along with the required documentation listed below:

- ☐ Completed application form
- ☐ A copy of your identity card
- ☐ A copy of your school registration and school record for 2008
- ☐ A letter of recommendation from one of your teachers or the school principal
- ☐ A letter of permission from your parents or legal guardian

Applications are due by December 15

Personal Information:

Complete Name: _____

Date of birth (month/day/year): _____

Complete home address (also include zip code, city and state):

Home phone: () _____ Cell phone: () _____

E-mail: _____

Previous travels abroad:

- To the U.S.: No () Yes () Where/When? _____
- To other countries: No () Yes () Where/When? _____

Family Information:

Parents: Married () Separated () Deceased: Mother ()

Father ()

Family size: Number of Brothers: _____

Number of Sisters: _____

Number of family members living with you in the same house: _____

Who do you live with: Parents () Mother () Father () Other (specify): _____

Father's name: _____

Father's occupation: _____

Father's employer (name of organization): _____

Father's salary: _____

Father's level of education: Primary () Secondary () University () Graduate studies ()

Father's home address: _____

Father's home phone: () _____ Office phone: () _____

Cell phone: () _____

Mother's name: _____

Mother's occupation: _____

Mother's employer (name of organization): _____

Mother's salary : _____

Mother's level of education: Primary () Secondary () University () Graduate studies ()

Mother's home address: _____

Mother's home phone: () _____ Office phone: () _____
Cell phone: () _____

Education:

Name and complete address of the school where you study

Current grade in school (attach a copy of your school record for 2008):

Do you study English in a language institute? If so, please provide name and address of the institute (attach a copy of your school record for 2008):

Volunteer interests and involvement:

Describe any projects/volunteer work you are engaged in. Please include the number of years you have been involved in each activity.

Leadership Experience:

Please briefly describe any leadership you have experienced in sports, school, activities, church, etc. Please specify your title, how long you held the role, what your responsibilities were and how your experience as a leader affected you.

The Youth Ambassadors program:

Why are you interested in participating in the Youth Ambassadors program and what do you hope to accomplish by participating?

In your opinion, what role do youth have in the development in your country?

In addition to **civic education, leadership development** and **community service**, the program seeks to build knowledge in other areas. Please check beside all the themes that are of personal and academic interest to you.

<input type="checkbox"/> environmental protection	<input type="checkbox"/> business/entrepreneurship
<input type="checkbox"/> drug/alcohol abuse prevention	<input type="checkbox"/> alternatives to violence

Program Involvement and Small Projects

In addition to the exchange component of the program, you will be given the opportunity to work with your peers to implement a community service project after your exchange that builds on what you have learned and your role as a volunteer.

What kinds of projects do you feel would most benefit your community and how you would like to contribute to those projects?

What do you hope to learn as a Youth Ambassador in order to help you implement a community project?

As a Youth Ambassador, you will be expected to fully participate in program activities, including orientation meetings and follow-on activities and project implementation. By signing below, you confirm that you will commit to actively working with the Youth Ambassadors following your exchange.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signatures:

Parental Authorization: I support and authorize my son or daughter's participation in the Youth Leaders or Youth Ambassador program through Partners of the Americas.

Autorización de los padres: Apoyo y autorizo la participación de mi hijo/a en el programa de Jóvenes Líderes o Jóvenes Embajadores de Compañeros de las Americas.

Signature/Firma: _____ Date/Fecha: _____

Printed Name/
Nombre: _____

Applicant: I verify that the information provided is true and accurate.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name:
